

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00191 060845Z

17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 ACDA-05 /091 W

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R 060650Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2616

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0191

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PFOR ET SO

SUBJECT: SIAD ON SOMALI-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

1. PRESIDENT SIAD TOLD ME FEBRUARY 5 THAT SRC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE ADVISOR CHIMICO (FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE) HAD RECENTLY STOPPED IN TRANSIT IN ADDIS FOR TWO-THREE DAYS IN PRIVATE CAPACITY. ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAD "OFFICIALIZED" HIS VISIT AND HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM IN WHICH THEY STRESSED DESIRE FOR GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, ETC. THEY HAD HOWEVER NOT RPT NOT BEEN WILLING TO TALK "MEANINGFULLY" ABOUT ISSUES IN DISPUTE BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA. THEN SRC POLITICAL COMMITTEE ADVISOR MOHAMED ADEN (FORMER MINISTER HIGHER EDUCATION) HAD GONE TO ADDIS FOR THREE-FOUR WEEKS "REST". HE HAD BEEN TREATED SIMILARLY BY ETHIOPIANS.

2. SIAD SAID HE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHAT ETHIOPIANS WERE DRIVING AT. IF THEY WISHED BETTER RELATIONS THEY SHOULD REQUEST OFFICIAL DELEGATION AND TALK SERIOUSLY.

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PAGE 02 MOGADI 00191 060845Z

HE HAD DECLINED GIVE CHIMICO OR ADEN OFFICIAL MANDATE

AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL ADDIS.

3. I ASKED IF ETHIOPIAN EFFORT TO OPEN DIALOGUE WAS NOT IN ITSELF GOOD GESTURE. SIAD SAID "HYPOCRITICAL WORDS" NEVER HELPED MATTERS, THEY MERELY DESTROYED CREDIBILITY. HE THKC PROCEEDED TO DISCOURSE ON INEVITABLE DISSOLUTION ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE, JUST LIKE ROMAN, BABYLONIAN, ETC. US SHOULD BACK ALL THOSE WHO STRUGGLING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE EMPIRE. WE SHOULD URGE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH ERITREANS, NOT RPT NOT USE FORCE AGAINST THEM.

4. COMMENT: SIAD'S COMMENTS ARE HARDLY ENCOURAGING FOR ANY EARLY DIALOGUE WITH ETHIOPIANS. HE PROBABLY FEELS EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA ARE IN FACT MOVING TOWARD DISSOLUTION OF EMPIRE AND THAT BEST THING FOR SOMALIS TO DO IS TO LET THEM TAKE THEIR COURSE. WE STILL DOUBT ANY EARLY MILITARY ACTION BY SOMALIS, AND THEIR PRESENT DROUGHT DIFFICULTIES ARE AN ADDITIONAL INHIBITING FACTOR. HOWEVER, WE FEEL THESE WOULD NOT RPT NOT PREVENT THEM FROM MOVING INTO OGADEN IF ETHIOPIAN SITUATION DETERIORATED TO POINT WHERE THEY FELT THEY COULD TAKE AND HOLD OGADEN WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT RESISTANCE.
KIRK

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